

**REMARKS**

Claims 16 - 29 and 31 - 37 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 - 15 were previously canceled, claim 30 is canceled by the present amendment, and claims 31 - 37 are newly added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In section 5 of the Office Action, claims 16 - 24, 26, 27, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,625,763 to Boner (hereinafter "the Boner patent") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0168011 to Hemming (hereinafter "the Hemming publication"). The application contains four independent claims, namely claims 16, 23, 26 and 29. Applicant is clarifying an aspect of claims 16, 23, 26 and 29 that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited combination of references.

Claim 16 provides for a method to implement a column interleaving function. The method includes, *inter alia*, inputting a stream of data entities into a shift register; and writing the data entities successively from the shift register into a memory. This aspect of claim 16 is described in the specification in paragraph 0024, thus, no new matter is being added by the present amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the neither of the Boner patent nor the Hemming publication discloses or suggests inputting a stream of data entities **into a shift register**; and writing the data entities successively **from the shift register into a memory**, as recited in claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant further submits that claim 16 is patentable over the cited combination of the Boner patent and the Hemming publication.

Claims 17 - 22 depend from claim 16. By virtue of this dependence, claims 17 - 22 are also patentable over the cited combination of references.

Claim 23 includes a recital similar to that of claim 16, as described above. As such, claim 23, similarly to claim 16, is patentable over the cited combination of references.

Claim 24 depends from claim 23. By virtue of this dependence, claim 24 is also patentable over the cited combination of references.

Claim 26 includes a recital similar to that of claim 16, as described above. As such, claim 26, similarly to claim 16, is patentable over the cited combination of references.

Claim 27 depends from claim 26. By virtue of this dependence, claim 27 is also patentable over the cited combination of references.

Claim 29 includes a recital similar to that of claim 16, as described above. As such, claim 29, similarly to claim 16, is patentable over the cited combination of references.

Claim 30 is canceled. Hence, the rejection of claim 30 is rendered moot.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 16 - 24, 26, 27, 29 and 30.

In section 7 of the Office Action, claims 25 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Boner patent in view of the Hemming publication and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,672,605 to Hustig et al. (hereinafter "the Hustig et al. patent").

Claim 25 depends from claim 23, and claim 28 depends from claim 26. Above, Applicant explained that claims 23 and 26 are patentable over the cited combination of the Boner patent and the Hemming publication. Applicant respectfully submits that the Hustig et al. patent does not make up for this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicant further submits that claims 23 and 26, and claims 25 and 28, by virtue of their dependence on claims 23 and 26, respectively, are all patentable over the cited combination of the Boner patent, the Hemming publication, and the Hustig et al. patent.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 25 and 28.

As mentioned above, Applicant is clarifying an aspect of claims 16, 23, 26 and 29 that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited combination of references. Applicant is also amending claims 16, 17, 21, 23, 26 and 29 for one or more of (a) improving grammar, (b) consistency with an underlying claim, (c) deleting recitals that do not appear to be necessary for patentability, or (d) avoiding recitals of "means for."

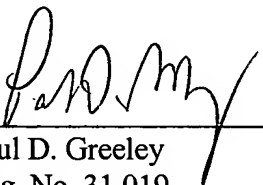
Applicant is adding claims 31 - 37 to even further provide the claim coverage that Applicant appears to deserve based on the prior art that was cited by the Examiner. A favorable consideration that also results in the allowance of claims 31 - 37 is earnestly solicited.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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